

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

As a procedural note, the present amendment is being filed concurrently with a formal Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR §1.114. Accordingly withdrawal of the "finality" of the January 29, 2007 Official Action is in order so as to allow entry and consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herewith.

1. Discussion of Claim Amendments

By way of the amendment instructions above, the pending claims have been revised so as to clarify the claimed subject matter thereof. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed process comprises *"measuring conductivity of the cooling liquid and deionizing the cooling liquid when an increase of the conductivity is detected."* Claim 6 has also been amended so as to emphasize that the engine unit comprises *"means for measuring conductivity of the cooling liquid coupled with the at least one deionizing means such that the cooling liquid is deionized when an increase of the conductivity is measured"*.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 6 can be found in the originally filed specification at page 8, lines 29-40.

Following entry of this amendment, therefore, amended versions of claims 1-13 will remain pending herein for consideration.

2. Response to 35 USC §103(a) Rejection

Prior claims 1-13 attracted a rejection under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being "obvious" and hence unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of Peters et al.

Applicants suggest that neither Yoshimura nor Peters et al is appropriate as a reference against the amended claims presented above since neither reference discloses or suggests measuring conductivity of the cooling liquid.

Peters et al is completely silent on the use of the cooling liquid described therein. Yoshimura mentions the use of a temperature controlled valve for controlling the deionization of a cooling liquid in dependence on the **temperature** of the cooling liquid. Neither Yoshimura nor Peters et al describe or suggest a **conductivity-dependent** control of the deionization of the cooling liquid.

According to the present invention, and in contrast to Yoshimura and Peters et al, deionization of the cooling liquid is effected only when an **increase in the conductivity** of the cooling liquid is detected thereby leading to a prolonged service life of the deionizing means employed.

Withdrawal of the rejection advanced under 35 USC §103(a) is therefore in order.

3. Conclusion

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants suggest that all claims are in condition for allowance and Official Notice of the same is solicited.

Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

WENDEROTH et al
Serial No. 10/512,092
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An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

4. Fee Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Bryan H. Davidson/
Bryan H. Davidson
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:dlb
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100